

Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals (PASNAP) held a rally today at Temple University Hospital (TUH)

April 21, 2010 - **MEDIA, PA** — Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) released the following statement in support of today's rally to bring the strike between TUH and PASNAP to a fair and expeditious resolution.

"I regret that I could not attend today's rally with members of PASNAP and their brothers and sisters in organized labor. The strike at Temple University Hospital has gone on for too long and must be settled immediately. I respect both sides in this dispute and recognize each is operating under extraordinary pressures associated with our current economic crisis and an inefficient healthcare system that has historically penalized urban hospitals who treat so many of the uninsured and others in need.

"It is the responsibility of government and our major health care systems to see that the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act meets its expectations of relieving the burden on urban hospitals like TUH. Until that reform is fully implemented, all parties must commit to greater efficiency, accountability and transparency in delivering health care. As part of that process I initiated discussion of the controversial 'gag order' with the Chairman and General Counsel of The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Unless that issue is quickly resolved there will be a lack of trust at the negotiating table and on the wards of TUH that could compromise patient care. I also believe we must work quickly to pass HR 2273 which amends the Public Health Service Act to require that hospitals implement staffing plans to meet specified ratios for direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing levels for each unit and requires that nurses have input on this extremely important topic. I will remain engaged in this strike until it is settled. It is essential that working families at TUH and across the Commonwealth of PA receive fair compensation for their extraordinary contributions to our economy and our safety."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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